Restoration of buildings of British Raj by 'English Heritage'

4123 SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that English Heritage, an organisation in U.K. propose to restore the old buildings of British Raj;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are Government's comments thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India are not aware of any such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Racket facilitating entry of foreign nationals into Taj on low-priced tickets

4124. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is true that a racket helps Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Malaysians enter the Taj on low-cost tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that groups of tourists are allowed to enter the Taj without valid tickets and for a consideration that is bargained with the duty staff there;

(c) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government have assessed the loss incurred for the last five years; and

(e) whether Government are considering any proposal to reduce the entry fee with a view to increase flow of tourists and maximize the revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government have no report to this effect.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Although certain proposals have been received in this regard for package ticket to monuments, no final decision has been taken.

Decline in Indian Tourists to Nepal

4125. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Indian tourists going to Nepal has declined considerably;

(b) whether Nepal has turned to China and is attracting Chinese tourists with incentives like making Chinese Yuan a legal tender in the country; and

(c) what steps Government are taken to ensure that more Indian tourists go to Nepal ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been decline in the number of Indian tourists visiting Nepal in recent times.

(b) Under a bilateral arrangement China has included Nepal as a preferred destination for Chinese tourists. Government of India has no confirmed reports of possibility of Chinese Yuan being made a legal tender in Nepal.

(c) While the choice of destination continues to be the prerogative of tourists themselves bilateral mechanisms between the two Governments to promote trade and tourism continued to be in operation.

Preservation and restoration of National Monuments in Delhi by ASI

4126. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India is undertaking a drive for preservation and restoration of number of historical and prestigious monuments in Delhi;

(b) the number and names of such monuments to be renovated; and

(c) when this campaign is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has a normal annual programme for maintenance, conservation and preservation of the centrally protected monuments as per their actual needs and availability of resources. The monuments included in the current years conservation programme are as per enclosed Statement (*see* below).

(c) Conservation of the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process.

Statement

Monuments of Delhi Circle, included in the Conservation Programme 2001-2002

1.	QUTAB MINAR
2.	HUMAYUN'S TOMB
3.	FEROZSHAH KOTLA